



Page Lee: Born in 1953, Page Lee was a dun stallion owned for much of his life by Tim Bernard of Loomis Washington. Bernard was a rancher, stock contractor and horse breeder who, along with Leo Moomaw founded the Omak Stampede and World Famous Suicide Race. His Bernard Quarter Horses program was highly respected throughout the Northwest during the 50's, 60's. Offspring of two of his top studs, Page Lee and Moon Hancock were highly sought after around the country for many years.

Page Lee was bred to be a sire. His dam Linda Mujer was one of the great mares of the breed, many claimed she was the best they ever saw. His grandam (twice) Lady Coolidge was the dam of JB King, Linda Mujer, Bert, Bras D'Or and the great calf horse Copper. Sire JB King was a tremendous athlete who haltered, raced, reined and roped against the best horses of his day. JB King outran Hard Twist, Monita, Hula Girl, Little Meow, Anniversary, Silhouette and others on the track. He beat Paul A, Lightning Bar, Bill Cody, Settle Up and Poco Dell in the show ring.

Legendary cowboy and horse breeder Orville "OJ" Bagley of Govan Washington knew Page Lee and his offspring as well as anyone, having worked for Bernard and Moomaw and standing several Page Lee sons such as Crown Page and Page Dee Bar. Bagley paid Page Lee the ultimate compliment, "there's lots of studs out there, but very few sires. Page Lee was a sire."

Looking at Page Lee's genetic background, it becomes clear why he sired such a high percentage of quality performance horses. Sired by JB King, he also had studs Star Deck, Oklahoma Star, Peter McCue son Harmon Baker and Beetchs Yellow Jacket X2 on his papers plus mares like Linda Mujer, Lady Coolidge X2 and Mayflower X2. What is striking to me about this pedigree is that not only is it filled with quality horses, it is filled with quality reproducers.

Another reason for Page Lee's success was the quality of the mares he was bred to. Many of the best crosses were daughters of

another Northwest legend, Moon Hancock. Tim Bernard stood Moon Hancock from 1950 to 1958 and retained a number of his daughters. Moon Hancock was sired by Tough Company by Chicaro Bill out of Mrs. Ogles by Joe Hancock. Tim Bernard bought a number of horses over the years from Charlie and Elmer Hepler. The Hepler Bros had a close relationship with Burnett Ranches in Texas and had the rare opportunity to breed mares to Joe Hancock. The Hepler Bros liked fast horses and owned a number of sons and daughters of Joe Hancock including Little Joe the Wrangler and War Chief. Bernard purchased Moon Hancock from the Heplers as a 2 year old plus mares like Zella Hep and daughters of Little Joe the Wrangler and Hepler's Wrangler.

Many of Moon Hancocks' daughters also had Joe Hancock on the bottom side. By crossing these Hancock bred mares to Page Lee we see a combination of Hancock with the blood of Yellow Wolf and Yellow Jacket through horses like Beetches Yellow Jacket, Lady Coolidge and Mike Beetch. Another example of the potency of this combination is Texas Blue Bonnet, a son of Joe Hancock out of a daughter of Mike Beetch who was 50% Yellow Wolf. We have had good success crossing our Page Lee granddaughters on to our Hancock studs.

Another mare who crossed well with Page Lee was Zella Hep by Tucson A who was a full brother to Leo out of a daughter of Little Joe the Wrangler. Bred to Page Lee she produced studs Pana Page, Jay Page and Crown Page and several good mares. After Bernards dispersal sale, she spent the rest of her days at Don Woittes' Fintry Quarter Horses where she raised several more top foals.

The two of the most remarkable aspects of Page Lee's career as a sire was the high percentage of performance horses he produced, along with the extreme versatility of his offspring. Page Lee produced AQHA Champions, Halter Champions, Performance Champions, AAA speed and a number of professional rodeo horses. A good example was Page One, a 1958 dun stallion. He had a performance ROM and was an AQHA Champion with points and first places in reining, roping, western riding, working cow and pleasure. He spent four years down the road as a professional calf roping horse plus bulldogging and hazing in the biggest rodeo's of the day. At home he had steers headed, heeled, tripped and tied on him. After Bernards dispersal he stood for many years for Barb McClain.

I really believe that if Page Lee hadn't spent his days tucked away up here in the Northwest, he would have gotten a lot more recognition in the quarter horse world than he did, he was that good. But he still has a soft spot in the hearts of cowboys around the Northwest.